

CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Specifications and Advertisement for Bids for Wood Pole Testing Program

MEETING DATE: May 6, 1998

SUBMITTED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the specifications for a wood pole testing contract and authorize advertisement for bids.

BACKGROUND: The Electric Utility Department has approximately 5,300 wood poles in use. From 1990 through 1994 the Electric Utility Department utilized a wood pole testing contractor to test 4,783 poles, all wood poles five years and older were tested.

This will be the first year of a planned six year program. The favorable results obtained from utilizing a contractor for this necessary electric utility function supports continuation of wood pole testing in this fashion. The Electric Utility Department objective is to have all wood utility poles tested for external and /or internal decay and to have chemical treatment installed on the exterior and /or interior of the poles to prolong their useful life.

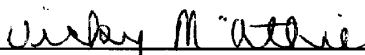
External treatment consist of a chemical product being applied 18 inches below ground level to two inches above ground level. Internal treatment is applied by drilling a 7/8 inch hole and inserting the internal treatment canister and a treated wood plug.

Sound equipment will insure reliable service to all of our customers and provide a significantly safer environment for the public and utility service employees. Pole testing is important in identifying untreatable poles which need to be replaced, and replacing decayed poles before they fall due to wind. Treating the poles to prevent decay saves exorbitant costs associated with premature replacements, power outages, emergency callouts, damage claims for personal property, and all other costs associated with unscheduled power outages. Fewer unscheduled power interruptions will increase reliability, customer service and productivity by providing better planning of crew time and allowing more time for scheduled projects and system maintenance.

In order to maintain continuity in the testing program, the specifications have been prepared with an option to extend the agreement on a year-to-year basis, at the City's discretion, for a maximum of three years.

FUNDING: Originally budgeted 1997-98
Budgeted Fund: 16.0-604.10
Budgeted Amount: \$25,000

Funding Approval:


Vicky McAthie, Finance Director



Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

Prepared by: Carl Lindstrom, EU Superintendent

ANV/CL/kf

c: City Attorney

Approved


H. Dixon Flynn
City Manager